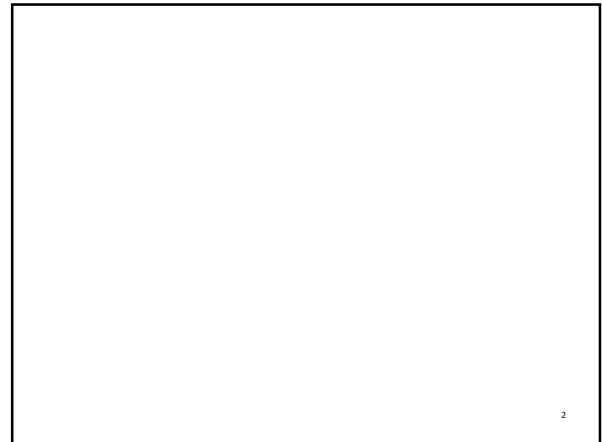


**“THERE ARE NO  
DUMB QUESTIONS  
about Service Work!”**

**AN ORIENTATION FOR  
SERVICE WORK  
IN AREA 57 (OKLAHOMA)**



1



2

We're about  
ready to start –  
Please get some coffee  
and find your seat



3

**Hello, everyone.  
Let's open this  
“No Dumb Questions Session”  
with a moment of silence  
...  
Followed by the  
Serenity Prayer.**



4



**GOD, Grant me the  
Serenity - to accept the  
things I cannot change,  
The Courage to Change  
the Things I can ...and  
The Wisdom to Know the  
Difference.**



5

**The answers in this  
presentation are in NO  
WAY written in stone.  
They are simply  
generally agreed upon  
answers. You'll find out  
soon enough, that if you  
ask 3 people you are  
liable to get 3 different  
answers.**



6

This Page  
Is Left Blank  
Intentionally

7

**Right after I was elected to my service position, someone said....**

**"Now you are a Trusted Servant".**

**I know that comes from Tradition 2 –**

**But what exactly does that mean?**



8

**Well ... now .....That's the best question I can think of – to start this thing off !**

**A "Trusted Servant" means the group is trusting you to do an AA job. They evidently have confidence in your sobriety and want you to stay sober.**



9

**Okay .... My first question is about the term "service work".**



**When people talk about service work – isn't that just like pouring coffee and emptying the ash trays at your group?**

10

**That's one kind of service work .....**

**The type of service work we're going to be talking about today – is sometimes better described as**

**"General Service Work" - meaning the service work within AA's General Service Structure.**

**Hopefully by the end of this presentation, you'll understand that better.**



11



The AA pamphlet "**A.A.'s LEGACY OF SERVICE**" probably answers that question the best.

**"Recovery, Unity, Service – these are the Three Legacies given to the whole membership of A.A. by its founders and their fellow oldtimers. When this heritage was announced at the St. Louis Convention in 1955, celebrating AA's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, Doctor Bob was already gone. But Bill W. spoke for him and the other pioneers, as well as for himself, in turning over to all of us the responsibility for A.A.'s continuation and growth.**

The *A.A. Service Manual* current version of the handbook first known as 'The Third Legacy Manual', may seem to be simply a guide to organization and procedure, and its approach is indeed practical. At the same time, it is based upon spiritual principles ..."

AA's LEGACY OF SERVICE  
© 1984 W.

12

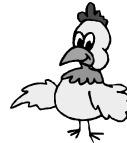


Okay, Okay .... **I** want to talk now

I want to know what to do when you hear someone (like an old-timer in your group) say really negative things about service work, Districts or the State?

13

You mean -  
**LIKE**  
**THIS ?**



...

14

Don't know why anyone would want to do Service Work at the District or State level ....



All they **EVER** do is argue for HOURS about coffee....

15

**YES .... Exactly like that !!!**



16

(Giggle)



That question can probably be most graciously answered by just **IGNORING IT.** (And you might want to avoid talking about coffee.)

**AND ...**You may want to say a little prayer for that person also that hopefully someday that resentment will go away. Perhaps that person had a bad experience with service work. I'm always sad to hear when that happens.

17

What is  
**G.S.O.?**



18

GSO – stands for  
“General Service Office”.

It is located on Riverside Drive in New York City. As the name suggests, it provides many invaluable services without which AA could not continue.

GSO is operated by AA World Services Inc. (AAWS)



19

A few GSO services are:

- Taking and processing orders for books and pamphlets
- Sending a **GSR Packet** to each new GSR for each group
- Helping AA get started in other parts of the world
- Operating our AA web site, [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)
- Keeping Group Records
- Answering Group Questions
- Providing CPC, PI, Corrections, Treatment and other services throughout the US and Canada



20

**G.S.O. is basically  
HEADQUARTERS**

for

**Alcoholics  
Anonymous.**



21

WHY IS SERVICE WORK  
Necessary?

What will I get out of it?



It sounds like a lot of work!

22

I'll answer that! It is best set out in our Conference Approved Pamphlet - *Inside A.A. - Understanding the Fellowship and its Service Agencies*

**“Inside A.A. - Since the Fellowship of A.A. was founded, in 1935, it has grown from two members to over 2,000,000. There are now more than 106,000 groups, and members are located in more than 180 countries.**

As A.A. has grown, so have its service need **Service** is our **Third Legacy**. **Recovery** and **Unity** are the **First** and **Second**. **Service** to others and to the **Fellowship** reminds us that we owe our sobriety to the work of earlier members – and that our continued sobriety may depend on the hundreds of thousands who still need to learn of A.A. Their participation may well be part of our future”.

[ From our pamphlet: Inside A.A. 9/2006 ]

23

Service work has meant several things to me:

- 1) It is a debt we owe for our own sobriety & survival.
- 2) It is a means of attaining a degree of happiness and satisfaction for ourselves.
- 3) It gives us a start on humility.
- 4) It helps us grow spiritually.
- 5) It helps us to encourage our hard working new people so that AA can continue to be there for the still suffering alcoholic in the future.



24

**General Service Work** is the **best kept secret** there is in Alcoholics Anonymous. We need to stay out of self to stay sober – and committing to service work helps us to do that. Remember ...

**Out of Self =  
Out of Trouble**



**Into Self =  
Into TROUBLE**

25



Oh, my GAWD ..... I just got elected by my home group to be the GSR.

What exactly does a GSR do?

What does GSR stand for?

What do I need to do NOW ????

**HELP !!!**

26

You, **as GSR**, are the link between your group and **A.A. as a whole**. Each group is different -- as to what they expect from their GSR – but generally the GSR goes to District & Area Meetings – to relay the “voice” of your group to the District & Area on different matters.

And brings the information -- given at District & Area Meetings -- back to the group to keep the group informed. (It's just 2-way communication)

It is recommended that you attend District and Area (State) Meetings and the Joint Service Meetings in OKC or Tulsa, if possible.

We'll give some examples of reports later on.



27

G.S.R. stands for General Service Representative.

Our G.S.R. pamphlet states “May be the most important job in A.A.” You can read about the position in that pamphlet and in our Service Manual.



<- Newest Versions ->



28

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

**GENERAL GROUP CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name	Address	Phone

**THE VERY FIRST THING YOU NEED TO DO -- AS A NEW GSR -- IS TO GET A "GROUP CHANGE FORM" AND FILL IT OUT -- SO YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION IS ENTERED INTO THE DATABASE --**

**SO YOU CAN GET A G.S.R. PACKET FROM GSO IN NEW YORK ...**

**AND GET ON THE MAILING LISTS SO YOU START RECEIVING NEWSLETTERS AND ALL.**

**YOU CAN GET THIS FORM OFF OUR STATE WEB PAGE [AAOKLAHOMA.ORG](http://AAOKLAHOMA.ORG) AT SERVICE MEETINGS OR FROM YOUR DCM.**

**JUST FILL IT OUT AND SEND IT TO THE STATE AA OFFICE. THE ADDRESS IS ON THE FORM.**

Forms available: [aaoklahoma.org](http://aaoklahoma.org) Call the State AA Office or get from Your DCM. Also are always available at Joint Service Mtgs. & Area Mtgs.



29

This is just an opinion, but...

**I believe that any time we are asked to do a service position in AA, it's an honor.**

**I was taught that getting elected by your group for a position, meant that my group trusted my sobriety.**

**Now, that I've gotten my ego out of the way (most of the time) I've discovered that service work is where I continue to learn ...**

**and to grow spiritually.**



30

Since I've now gotten a service position outside of my group .... Are there – like – any "spiritual tools"

that I'm gonna need to do service work?

Because ... my biggest fear about doing service work is ....



That I'm getting myself into a **WHOLE LOT** of the kind of stuff that sometimes happens at our group conscience meetings ... All that fighting and stuff ...

I don't like that at all. If that is what **this** is all about ... I'm **NOT INTERESTED !!!**

31

**First of all** .... We all know ...

the Ultimate Authority in everything we do in AA and for AA .... is the

**God of our understanding.**

Remember ... **YOU** are not in charge.



32

In fact the best spiritual tool for any job in AA is .... from Tradition 4 in the Twelve & Twelve ... Remember?

**RULE 62 –**

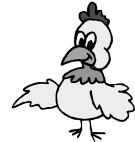
**Don't take yourself too seriously!!!**



33

There are **LOTS** more spiritual tools hidden in this presentation ....

**Can you find them?**



34

Okay... My questions are:

What is an Area?

What is Area 57?

What is a District?



35

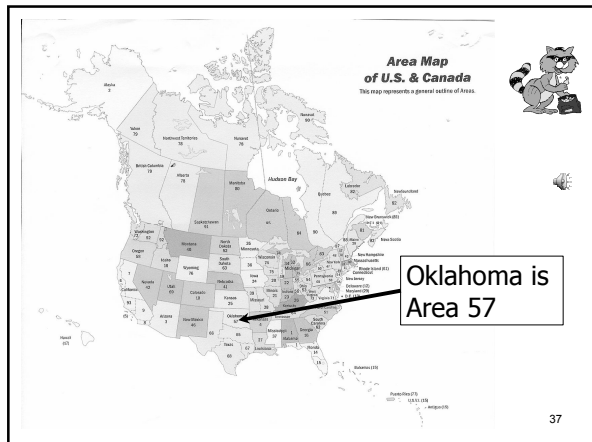
Okay ... Let's start off with some real basics about service work in Area 57.

The whole State of Oklahoma is known as "Area 57". There are 93 areas in the United States & Canada that participate in the General Service Conference each year.



The next slide will show them to you .....

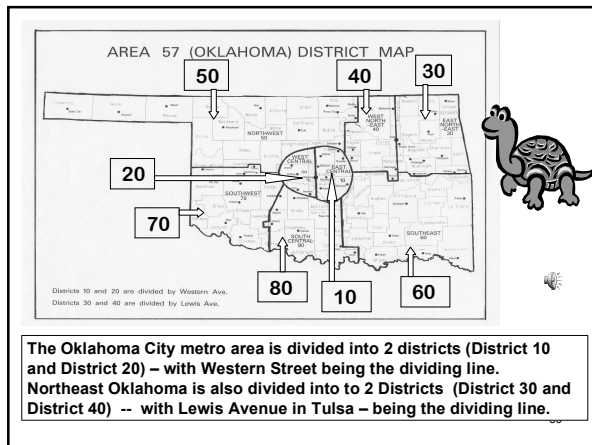
36



Our service manual says ... "A district is a geographical unit containing the right number of groups – right in terms of the committee member's ability to keep in frequent touch with them, to learn their problems, and to find ways to contribute to their growth and well-being. The number of groups per district varies widely ...".

Area 57 has 8 Districts ... as you'll see on the District Map - on the next slide.

38



**Within the District .... WELL, this is where Oklahoma's service structure is a little different from others ... but it has worked well for us for over 50 years.**

**In each of our eight (8) Districts in Oklahoma, we have 6 DCMs and 6 Alternate DCMs (Actually our P&P says - as many Alt. DCMs as the District likes).**

**Each District is comprised of the registered groups located within its geographical boundaries.**

40

**In Oklahoma – we have "District Meetings" – which are presided over by the District Chair. GSRs and Alternate GSRs, as well as any other group members interested in service work – gather quarterly – usually one (1) to two (2) weeks before each quarterly Area (State) Committee Meeting.**

**Some DCMs have also taken the suggestion from our Service Manual and held "GSR Meetings" with the GSRs and Alternate GSRs in their "Cluster" or "Zone".**

**These are usually held between District Meetings and help the DCM better communicate with the groups that they are responsible to.**

41

When I read through the literature I got, they mentioned different types of meetings. So can you tell me ....

What is a District Meeting?

What is an Area Committee Meeting?

And .. What is an Area Assembly?

42

We may need to take a little bit of time here and explain that each Area (just like each group) is autonomous (self-governing). AA in each Area has evolved differently. The Service Manual is meant to be a guide for all 93 Areas in the US and Canada. As such -- it is meant to be a broad guideline.

Way back when – in Oklahoma – our members decided that groups would have two (2) votes – the GSR and Alternate GSR for the group would **each** have one vote (most other Areas – only the GSR votes). This was done with the original intent of getting as many people involved as possible.



43

It was also decided back then (probably to save time and money for the GSRs and Alt. GSRs) that the GSRs and Alt GSRs would vote at the District Meetings ..... And at the yearly Area Assembly.

And that the mundane business matters could be better handled quarterly at the Area Committee Meetings by the DCMs – as DCMs only VOTE there – after obtaining the group's voice at the District Meetings.



44

**SO... TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION ... IN OKLAHOMA ...**

**A DISTRICT MEETING – IS CHAIRED BY THE DISTRICT CHAIR. PEOPLE WHO ATTEND DISTRICT MEETINGS ARE GSRs, ALT. GSRs, DCMs, ALT. DCMs, DISTRICT SERVICE CHAIRS, AND ANY GROUP MEMBERS INTERESTED IN SERVICE WORK. AT DISTRICT MEETINGS – ONLY GSRs OR ALT. GSRs CAN MAKE MOTIONS AND VOTE. ANYONE CAN PARTICIPATE.**

**AN AREA COMMITTEE MEETING – THE QUARTERLY (MARCH, JUNE, SEPT. & DEC.) AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE CHAIRED BY THE AREA CHAIR. ALL OF THE SAME PEOPLE JUST MENTIONED ATTEND -- BUT AT AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS -- ONLY DCMs CAN MAKE MOTIONS & VOTE. ANYONE CAN PARTICIPATE. (ALSO OFFICERS & AREA SERVICE CHAIRS ATTEND)**

**IN OKLAHOMA -- WE HAVE ONE (1) YEARLY AREA ASSEMBLY WHICH MEETS IN SEPTEMBER – IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SEPT. AREA COMMITTEE MEETING. ONLY THE GSRs AND ALT. GSRs VOTE. THEY APPROVE THE BUDGET, ELECT OFFICERS (EVEN YEARS), AND ADDRESS ANY OTHER ITEM BROUGHT TO THE ASSEMBLY.**



45

## What is a "Joint Service Meeting?"



46

There are two (2) of them:

One in Tulsa --- One in Oklahoma City

They are informal sessions intended to help you learn about the 12 Traditions, the 12 Concepts and how the whole "service thing" works ... and your part in it.

They are also a great opportunity to meet and get to know some of the folks who are experienced in service work.

The OKC Joint Service Meeting – meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month.  
The Tulsa Joint Service Meeting – meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.

47

SO ...What if you don't live in one of those cities?

The service meetings aren't limited to those from the metro areas, so you are welcome whenever you can get there.

Also for the more rural areas, the State Sponsored Workshops can serve much the same purpose – offering basic information on service, traditions and concepts.



48



**Do I need to be a Traditions expert to do service work?**



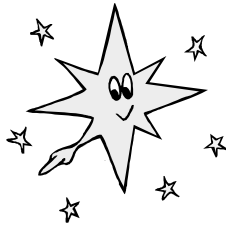
49

No, but you need to be willing to learn. Just like in your recovery – you need the willingness to learn and sometimes a good teacher. It's the same for service work.



50

What are the requirements for being a GSR?



51

It is generally suggested that you have **two years of** continuous **sobriety**.

**Active membership** in a home group – YOURS – is also important.

Some **service experience** at the group level (secretary, treasurer, coffee-maker, etc) provides a good head start.

It is also important that you have time available for District and Area Meetings.

( You can read more about this in the GSR Pamphlet ... "The makings of a good G.S.R." )



52

OOPS!

What if you have been elected GSR .... and you don't have

all of those requirements?



53

Again, all of this is "suggestion only". If your group has trusted you with the position, then my "suggestion" is that you give it a **TRY**.



*Try It! You might get "hooked"!*

54

What if ... as GSR  
someone asks me a  
question ... I don't  
know the answer to?



There's ***NO DOUBT***  
that ***WILL Happen!***

None of us are experts.  
We are all still learning.  
But ... by attending District  
Meetings and Area  
Meetings – you'll meet a lot  
of people. Someone will  
know the answer. We just  
need to ask...



People keep talking about  
P&P.

What is P & P?



Our Policy & Procedure Manual is referred to as P&P.  
This is a working document, like the AA Service  
Manual, which serves as a guide. Both are guidelines  
for our General Service Structure – which takes the  
place of government in AA and ensures that the full  
voice of AA will be heard and guarantees that the  
desired services of AA in Area 57 (Oklahoma) will  
continue to function under all conditions.

Once you start reading the Service Manual, you'll see  
that it is meant to be broad enough to cover all of the  
93 Areas in the US & Canada.

Our Policy & Procedures Manual  
documents what Area 57 (Oklahoma)  
has done in the past and is meant to  
work hand-in-hand with the Service Manual.



**AREA 57**  
(OKLAHOMA)

AREA COMMITTEE

POLICY  
AND  
PROCEDURE  
MANUAL

Revised 6-10-2007  
(changes made after 12-14-2007. Old language is in "strike out"  
and new language is in "bold italics")

This is what our Policy  
and Procedure Manual  
looks like.

You can print off your  
own copy from our web  
page - [aaoklahoma.org](http://aaoklahoma.org)

Or you can call  
The State AA Office  
and have one mailed  
to you if you don't have  
access to the Internet



What is the "General Service  
Conference"??



Each of the 93 Areas in the US and Canada send an AREA DELEGATE to the General Service Conference – so that the voice of the groups in that Area are heard. That’s why, if you are a GSR, it is important that you communicate what your group’s wishes and needs are to our Delegate.

In Oklahoma, our State Conference was determined many years ago to be the place where our Area 57 Delegate can report to all of us what he or she learned at the Conference, so that all of us can stay informed.

Things that are discussed and voted on at the General Service Conference are things like: changes or updates in our Literature, what public service announcements are to be used by TV & radio, what information is in the Service Committee workbooks, and lots of other things.

61

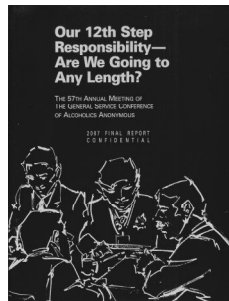
The Conference comes closer to Government than anything else in AA. But as Bill W. put in the first edition of the Service Manual “Of course, it can not be too often said, that while the Conference can issue orders to the General Service office, it can never mandate or govern the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous, which it serves. The Conference represents us – but cannot rule us”.

Each Delegate serves on one of the standing Conference Committees (for example the Report and Charter Committee which deals with updating the AA Service Manual and AA Directories). The Committees bring recommendations to the full Conference for consideration as possible Advisory Actions..

62

**The Advisory Actions each year are published in the Final Conference Report**

**Our Delegate or your DCM have these available for members every year. Here’s what they look like.**



63

If I don’t know what District my home group is in, how do I find out?



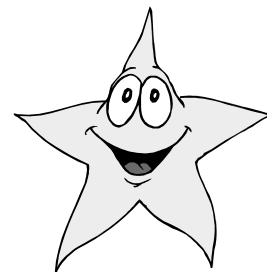
64

That’s really easy ...  
If you can’t tell from the map you call our State AA Office and find out.



65

What is a D.C.M?



66

**A DCM is a  
District Committee Member.**



Each of our 8 Districts has 6 DCMs elected by the GSRs and Alternate GSRs. They play a varied - but central role in AA, including visiting the groups they are responsible to, being the District's representatives to the Area Committee, keeping in touch with the groups, serving as a resource of information for the groups, keeping the Delegate informed and keeping the groups informed.

67

Please feel free to contact the DMC for your group whenever you have any questions about what's going on in AA as a whole - or if you have something going on at your group that you'd like to get help with. You may want to invite him or her to your group conscience meetings.



If you don't know who your DCM is - you can contact the District Chair for your district (those numbers are in the Area 57 Newsletter) or you can call the State AA Office to find out who it is.

68

What is a District Chair?

What do they do that the DCMs don't do



69

Each district selects someone (usually a DCM or past DCM) to serve as District Chair. The District Chair schedules and conducts District Meetings. The District Chair also appoints the District Service Committee Chairs, as well as the District Secretary and the District Treasurer.



70

**What is the  
State AA Office?**



71

So you'll know what  
We're talking about ...

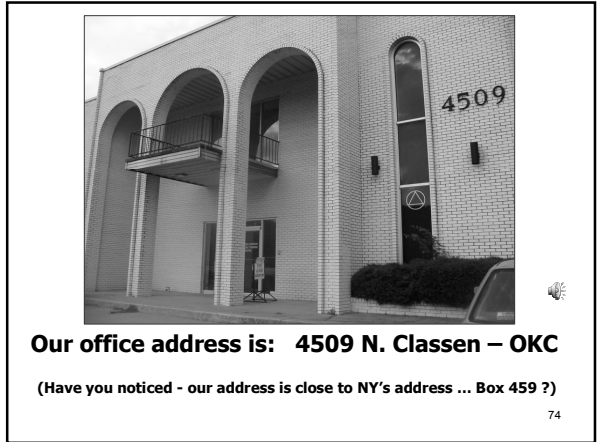
First of all ...  
Here's a picture  
(some pictures)  
of our current  
State AA Office.



72



73



**Our office address is: 4509 N. Classen – OKC**


(Have you noticed - our address is close to NY's address ... Box 459 ?)

74




75


Why is the OKC Office called **Intergroup** and Tulsa one called **Central Office**? Aren't they both the same?




What do they do -- and what's the difference in what they do and what the **State AA Office** does?



76



And ..... Why do we have one (a State AA Office) when other Areas don't?





77

They are just different terms for the same type of office. "Intergroup" and "Central Office" – are exactly the same – Some other Areas call them just "Service Offices" and some even call them "local General Service Offices".

Our **NE Central Office (Tulsa)** and our **Intergroup (OKC)** provide the following services to our Fellowship:

- Line up members to answer our HOTLINES 24 hrs a day
- Stock literature, making it easy for us to purchase it
- Are on the "front line" of Alcoholics Anonymous. A friendly voice on the other end of the phone – telling us there's HOPE, where to find a meeting, etc.
- Answer questions from the Fellowship
- Supply and stock our "chips" and other items the Fellowship wants to have easily available

78

Just a little history ... Way back ... when we were sobering up drunks in the little room at the Kelley Club – all of the business matters of AA in Oklahoma were done from there, too.

As A.A. grew in Oklahoma, eventually that business part of AA needed to be done elsewhere. Polly P., the wife of one of our early members, took all of it except for the phone and the literature into her home. Ed F., Edna B. and then eventually Lita R. did the phones, literature and inter-group business.



From that – our structure in A.A. in Oklahoma evolved.

The work that Polly did eventually became our State AA Office and the literature/phone work eventually became our Oklahoma City Intergroup Office.

79

**At last count ... there are only 11 of the 93 Areas in the U.S. & Canada who have "Area" or "State" offices to facilitate their General Service Work.**

**Many other Areas are envious – that we do!**



**With the new Data Base (called Fellowship New Vision) that G.S.O. in NY - has just put into existence, each Area will assume a LOT more responsibility for keeping the Group Records updated and maintained. So, we may see more of them popping up.**

80



## What are Service Committees?

81

In Oklahoma - there are 11 service committees, which we'll list on the following slide.

The Area Service Committees consist of an Area Service Chair appointed by the Area Chair, and one Service Chair from each District.

Their job is to help, support, provide information about and generally encourage individuals and groups to carry the message in various ways.



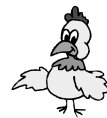
82

### **Area 57's Service Committees:**

Archives Committee  
Bridge-the-Gap Committee  
Corrections Committee  
C.P.C. (Cooperation with the Professional Community) Committee  
Grapevine Committee  
Language Services Committee (Special Needs)  
Media Services Committee  
Oklahoma Gratitude Plan Committee  
Policy & Procedures Committee  
P.I. (Public Information) Committee  
Treatment Committee

83

## What are Archives?



84

It's a collection of our AA history. Our Oklahoma archivists – first Earl H. and now Mark M. have collected a LOT of it both on AA as a whole



...and of AA's history here in Oklahoma.

Here are some pictures of our archives at the office.

85



AA History – is in the room on the right at the office.

86



And ... Oklahoma's AA History is in the room on the left

87

Our Area 57 **ARCHIVES:**

- \* Gathers group histories
- \* Conducts "interviews" with old-timers in order to get their stories preserved
- \* Helps research any archive-type questions that groups may have
- \* Makes sure our archives are safe and preserved for future members



88

Your Area 57 Archives helps us to carry the message by keeping all of us excited about the program. If you come by and browse your collection or check out what people did on your service committee before you -- you will know this.

You are really cheating yourself if you haven't ever visited your Archives at the State AA Office or at the State Conference.



89

What do I (as a GSR) do at Area Meetings?



90

# **LISTEN AND LEARN**



**Don't forget - there are NO  
DUMB QUESTIONS in Service  
Work**

91

Remember, you are there to bring your group's voice to the Area, and to bring information from the Area back to your group. So you'll want to participate in the discussions and take notes to take back to your group. During the breaks – will be your chance to share experiences with others from all around the Area. You can also have informal talks with YOUR trusted servants – to ask questions or provide your perspective on things.



92

My group wants me to bring back a GSR report from the District Meetings and Area Meetings?

What exactly does a "GSR Report" consist of?



93

Sample # 1 of a GSR Report – to a group:

**My group really enjoys getting reports of what's going on with AA as a whole. They allow me as much time as I need during our Group Conscience Meeting to give it.**

**Things I report from a District Meeting are things like this:**

- \* Our District PI Chair reported that we have placed public service announcements with all of the radio stations in our District.
- \* A group has started taking meetings into the XYZ Treatment Center on Tuesday evenings, but they still need more folks to help out. If you are free on Tuesdays and want to help, I'll put you in touch with the right people to get started.
- \* The GSRs & Alt. GSRs at the District Meeting voted to allocate \$200 for literature for the Corrections Committee.
- \* Several of the GSRs at the District Meeting reported that they are being inundated with people ordered by the Court.
- \* There is an opening for the District Grapevine Chair, if anyone is interested.



(Reports from Area Committee Meetings will be similar to this)

94

Sample # 2 of a GSR Report – to a group:

Well, my group has 26 meetings per week and about 350 members – so it's impossible for me to make a report at each meeting and we have very few show up to the business meetings – so we have a bulletin board and we post the newsletter and anything else I pick up at the District or State Meetings.



95

Sample # 3 of a GSR Report – to a group:

**I heard at an Area Committee Meeting about a group inventory. I'd never heard of one of THOSE! I found an inventory in the pamphlet "The AA Group". At the next Group Conscience Meeting I suggested it. To my surprise, they liked the idea --- AND WE DID IT.**

**Another thing I heard at a meeting was about Area 57 proposing an agenda item for the General Service Conference in New York about our literature being consistent. So I brought that information back to my group and asked them what they thought. It sparked a lot of interest and research. Now we have even changed our meeting format and I have experience I can share with other groups.**



96



When I was first elected as GSR (way back when) I only had about a year of sobriety. I would go to the District & State meetings - then go back to my group and **TRY** to make a report - but they really didn't want to hear it.

I'd go home and cry. BUT - I kept doing it - because it was my job.

I've learned since then that it helps to not take yourself too seriously and to keep the report short.

**HANG IN THERE** - it gets BETTER!



97

Someone told me as GSR I need to go to the District Meeting and make a "GSR Report" at the District Mtg.



What exactly do I report there?  
What do I say?

98

Sample # 1 of a GSR Report – to the District:

**The GSR report I give at the District Meeting is just to let the other groups in the District know how it's going with our group. For example:**

- "Our group is growing (or shrinking).
- We are getting lots of newcomers from Drug Court, which we LOVE.
- We recently lost a valued old-timer. He will be missed.
- Our group conscience recently voted to have Starbuck's coffee at the meeting.
- We are still taking meetings into the XYZ Treatment Center.
- We've added a new meeting on Sunday nights."
- "Our Alternate GSR had to move to Colorado – so we've elected a new one. He's here today. Meet Johnny Jones".

(What I don't do – is just announce our meeting place & times.)

99



Sample # 2 of a GSR Report – to the District:

**At the District meeting – I just tell them we're doing fine. I report any changes to our meeting schedule and events coming up that we're hosting.**



100

Sample # 3 of a GSR Report – to the District:



When I go to a District Meeting, I mention any current problems or issues of my group and ask if anyone there has had any experience with that. That has been really HELPFUL.

Or - one time my group was wanting to take a meeting into a correctional facility, so I asked if anyone could help us get it going. There were lots of people who came up to me afterwards and helped .... Or ... Another time ...

Our group wanted to have a workshop about service which we later titled "Is Your Triangle FLAT" – we took the idea to the district and they were supportive – so we did it.

101

In the service manual, one of the "duties" of GSR is to inform the Delegate of my group's thoughts (wishes or needs?).

How do I do that? What needs or wishes is that talking about?

How do I get that to the Delegate? Who is the Delegate?

What is a Delegate?



102

Any concerns your group might have about anything relative to A.A. as a whole – are things you should let your Delegate know about. If you attend the Area Committee Meeting in March, you will hear about all of the issues to ask your group about.

Any Tradition breaks or concerns are to be brought to our Delegate's attention, also.

You take your group's thoughts, needs or wishes to our Area 57 Delegate, either by calling him or her or relaying that information to your DCM.

Each area has one (1) member elected by the GSRs & Alt. GSRs to go to New York to represent that Area. That person is our Delegate.

If you don't know who our Delegate is, call the State AA Office (405) 842-1200

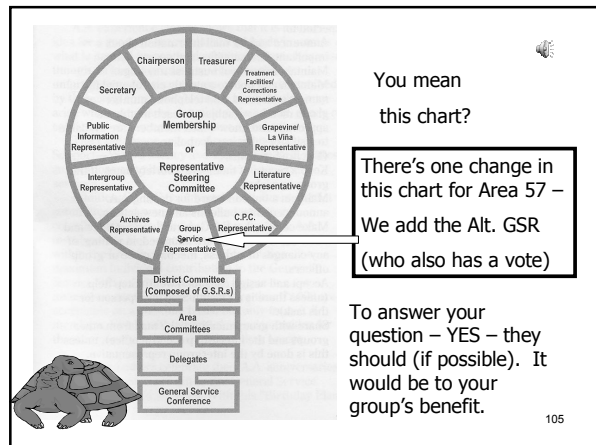
103

Is my home group supposed to have a representative for .. Grapevine, PI, CPC, Corrections, etc.?

It looks like it is – based on the chart I saw in the pamphlet "The AA GROUP"



104



You mean this chart?

There's one change in this chart for Area 57 – We add the Alt. GSR (who also has a vote)

To answer your question – YES – they should (if possible). It would be to your group's benefit.

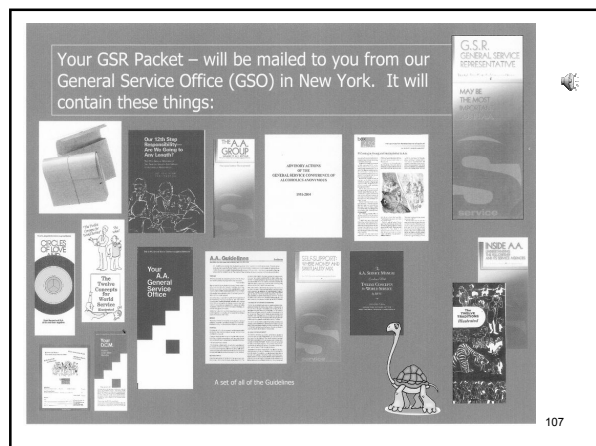
105

I guess I'm supposed to be getting a "GSR Packet" from GSO. What's in it?



What do I do when I get it?

106



107

What do you do when you get it ....



Start **READING** and **STUDYING**

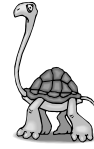
108

**Do I get a GSR Packet from GSO as an Alternate GSR?**



109

The biggest difference – is that Alt. GSRs here – get to vote.



No, you don't get a GSR packet from GSO.

However,

our Intergroup Office (in OKC) and our NE Central Office (in Tulsa) have put some together for Alternate GSRs to purchase, if they'd like. They run around \$7

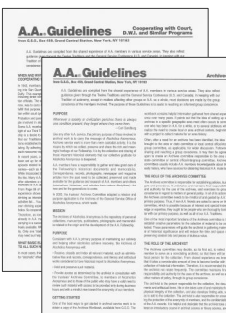
110

I got some "Guidelines" in my GSR packet.

I've never seen these before. Where did they come from?



111



They are service pieces put out by G.S.O. in NY

There are 17 of them:

- Archives
- Serving Alcoholics with Special Needs
- Finance
- Treatment Facilities Committees
- Carrying the AA message to the Deaf Alcoholic
- A.A. Answering Services
- Cooperation With the Professional Community
- For A.A. Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field
- Literature Committees
- Relationship Between AA and Al-Anon
- Public Information
- Correctional Facilities Committees
- Conference, Conventions and Roundups
- Clubs
- Central or Intergroup Offices
- Cooperating with Court, D.W.I. and Similar Programs

112

A friend asked me to go with them to a Area meeting.

Can you go to a District or an Area Meeting if you don't hold a service position?



113

**Are you NUTS! Of course you can!**

Everyone's welcome.



114

When people say "check the web page" -



What do they mean?  
Are there more than one?  
What are they for?

115

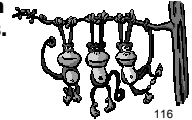
### [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

This website is from the General Service Office (GSO) in New York. It contains information about AA and for new members. Many of AA's pamphlets, guidelines and other service pieces are available here.

There's also .... a vague reference to something about the first 164 pages of something??

### [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

On this site – you can read, research topics or listen to Grapevine articles.



116

Here's a sample of a "service piece" available on the aa.org

web site - that you may never have seen – since it's not a published pamphlet

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR LEADING BEGINNERS MEETINGS

- What Kinds of Meetings Work Best
- How Leaders Can Prepare Themselves
- Suggested Topics for Meetings

This booklet is for all A.A.s. Although it is written mainly to help the group holding beginners meetings, or the member leading them, any other A.A. will find it worthwhile reading.

By meeting and giving A.A. help, every one of us becomes a link in a chain around the world. All of us cling to the chain to save our lives, and yet each of us is part of it—depending on all the others to help keep the chain unbroken.

In this booklet, we explain ways to strengthen the links—ways through which we can stay sober by helping other alcoholics stay away from one drink, one day at a time. It is a collection, from A.A. groups everywhere, of suggestions for helping A.A. newcomers gain sobriety and grow in the program.



117

### [www.aaklahaoma.org](http://www.aaklahaoma.org)

- The Area 57 (Oklahoma) web site contains current, timely and lively events on the calendar.
- Information to facilitate the carrying of our 12<sup>th</sup> Step message.
- Meeting schedule for the entire State.



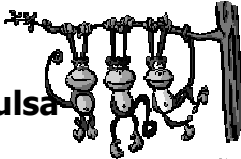
118

[www.aaneok.org](http://www.aaneok.org)  
Web page for Central Office in Tulsa

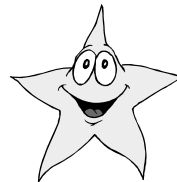
[www.okcintergroup.org](http://www.okcintergroup.org)  
Web page for Oklahoma City's Intergroup Office

These 2 entities provide local help to 12<sup>th</sup> Steppers and 24-hour HOTLINES for their local areas.

119



What is "Conference Approved Literature"



120

This is from our AA web page (aa.org)



**"Conference-approved" -- What It Means to You**

Service Material from the General Service Office

The term "conference-approved" describes written or audiovisual material approved by the [General Service] Conference for publication by G.S.O. This process assures that everything in such literature is in accord with A.A. principles. Conference-approved material always deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the A.A. Fellowship....

**Not All "A.A. Literature" Is Conference-Approved**

Central offices and intergroups do write and distribute pamphlets or booklets that are not Conference-approved. If such pieces meet the needs of the local membership, they may be legitimately classified as "A.A. Literature". There is no conflict between A.A. World Services, Inc. (AAWS – publishers of the Conference-approved literature), and central offices or intergroups – rather they compliment each other.

The Conference does not *disapprove* of such material".

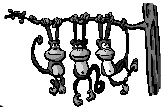
121

Why does Intergroup or Central Office make a profit?



122

These two (2) offices DO NOT make a profit by design. They are non-profit organizations designed to operate on group contributions.



Group contributions and sales of other items are required to make ends meet. They have to watch the profit margin very closely at all times in order to maintain their non-profit status.

123

Why do we have a "volunteer desk" at Intergroup & Central Office?



124



Well, we have volunteers – so that our special workers can get their work done and so that our special workers are not in any way being paid for what might be considered 12<sup>th</sup> step work.

Our Volunteers - during office hours - at the **Volunteer Desks** - get to share their experience, strength & hope with the new person calling in. Also, the Volunteer Desks often are a place to start getting involved so they'll feel a part of and as such - are a safe haven for newcomers.

People working at the Volunteer Desks also receive the beautiful rewards that we get within our hearts by being of service.

125

**Why do we have paid employees at ...**

Intergroup,  
NE Central Office  
and at the State AA Office?



126

**The work wouldn't get done – if you don't!**

Tradition 8 states that "our service centers may employ special workers". Our AA experience over the years has shown - if you have paid office personnel, the office just runs more smoothly.

As mentioned in the 12x12 on this Tradition, our experience is that paid employees show up better than volunteers.

It also states that we need to be self-supporting and pay our special workers whatever we'd have to pay a non-alcoholic for the same job.



127

I've seen one meeting schedule book that seems to have OKC and some of the cities around OKC in it,

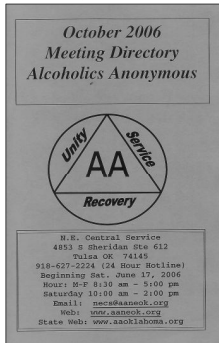
and another – that appears to have Tulsa and surrounding towns. How do I know which is listed where?



**AND... If my group isn't listed in either one, how do I get it listed?**

128

Tulsa's Meeting Directory



OKC's Meeting Directory

129

Actually, the meeting listings aren't limited to groups in the urban districts. Any group can be listed in either or both directories. Many rural groups are listed in whichever is closer.

**If your group isn't listed, just call your Intergroup or NE Central Office.**



The bottom line is – you want someone trying to find AA in your town to be able to find your group.

You'll need to update your listing about every 6 months – or whenever there's a change.

130



**One of my concerns is ....**

The guy who did the service position I'm considering – before me – did **SUCH** an excellent job. I don't think there's **ANY WAY** that I can **ever** fill his shoes. What if I can't?

131



**SERVICE WORK ...**

**Is NOT about filling someone else's shoes ...**

**It's about finding YOUR OWN!**

132



When they say  
 “bona fide sub” –  
 what does that mean?

133

A “bona fide sub” - is a person who is attending the meeting as a substitute for a GSR, Alt. GSR, DCM, Alternate DCM, or Service Committee Member who couldn't be there – but was responsible enough to get someone to cover for him/her.



“Bona fide” just means that they were really asked to fill in - by the person they are subbing for.

134

Do I need to know Robert's Rules in order to go to these service meetings?



135

NO. Roberts' Rules of Order are parliamentary procedures for conducting meetings. You'll learn as you go.

You can certainly pick up one of these books available on these procedures at any bookstore.

Kind of a funny thought ....

*How do you get alcoholics to follow the rules -- anyway?*



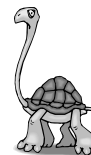
136

Okay – What I want to know – is how do you get to be like some old-timers – where -- when all of the fighting or controversy **IS** going on -- it doesn't seem to “get under their skin”. They seem just fine. How do you learn how to do that?



137

I had that same question – so I went to an Area Meeting and asked several people who was the person when things got all “heated” was the calming voice. All of them pointed to one person ... We'll call him “Chuck”. So I asked him how some old-timers learned how to “not let it get under their skin”.



He said: “That's easy. Whenever something happens or someone says something that gets under your skin – you **INVENTORY it** – and find out why it gets under your skin. After you do that enough times – it doesn't happen anymore.

138

## On Conferences ....

I just heard someone say that **ONLY** the State Conference is "AA approved".



What's that about?

139

Technically, our State Conference is the only Conference recognized by our Policy & Procedures Manual and Alcoholics Anonymous.

At our State Conference - you will hear the **Area Delegate's Report** and as such our Conference is a part of the General Service Structure in our Area.



140

**This is not to diminish the value of any other AA conferences in any way. It's just that - this is the one directly supported by the State Committee.**



141



What is a  
Sharing Session?



142

Sharing Sessions (as outlined in our Service Manual in Chapter 4 - Area Assemblies & Activities), is probably the BEST method of coming up with an **INFORMED GROUP CONSCIENCE**.

In a **Sharing Session**, everyone has a chance to use their experience, strength and hope to contribute ideas and opinions about the welfare of AA. It can be set up anywhere for any group of people, and is especially useful for assemblies and district meetings. Its format is aimed at drawing out the ideas of even the shyest participant, and keeps the more articulate from domineering the meeting. Each person offers an opinion, and never needs to defend it. The chairperson or leader functions more as a timekeeper than as a participant.



143

**I've heard that clubhouses are not AA.**

**What's that about?**



**I always tell people that my home group is the "XYZ" Club. So, is that wrong?**

144



A clubhouse is a business – and usually a corporation – run by a board of trustees. The corporation is basically – the **LANDLORD**, but the line gets fuzzy because the board is made up of AA members.

A clubhouse is not a home group. It's a meeting place just like meetings held in churches. If I go to a meeting at the "XYZ" Church – I don't call the "XYZ" Church my home group. I use the name of the group.

If you want to research this yourself, you might want to start with our "A.A. Guidelines" on "Clubs".



145

What is a  
State-Sponsored  
Workshop?



146

A **State-Sponsored Workshop** is simply a workshop that is put on by our State (which is Area 57).

Any group that is interested in hosting one, just needs to contact our Area Alternate Chair and get one set up.

Districts and groups also can hold workshops. A District workshop just means that the District is paying for it.



There are a lot of workshop suggestions on A.A.s web page which is **aa.org**



147

**If we don't know our Group Service Number ... how do we find out what it is?**

**What does it represent – anyway?**



148

If you don't know your group's GSO service number, just call our State AA Office and get it.



The **Group Service Number** is a number assigned by GSO in New York to each registered group in order to maintain the group's information- like who the GSR is, and all ....

That number is also the number your group would use if your group orders literature directly from GSO in New York - and

**MOST IMPORTANTLY...** it should be on each group contribution check to GSO, the State, your District or Intergroup.

149

**What is the difference between A.A.W.S. and G.S.O.?**



**Why do we send the checks to A.A.W.S.?**



150

A.A.W.S., which stands for Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. is – like the umbrella corporation over all the business matters of AA and it publishes all of our literature & funds our world services. General Service Office (GSO) covers the United States and Canada.



As such – there's one BIG bank account (like a "parent" company) so we write the checks to that.

151

I've heard some people refer to ANYBODY who's doing service work at the District or State level – **"the AA Police"**. Why is that?



I sure don't want anyone to say that about me!

152

Unfortunately, we all – at times – still have problems with our egos. Usually a comment like that indicates that there's been someone in a service position who took their job too seriously and

**BEHAVED LIKE THE AA POLICE.**

It's unfortunate whenever anything like that happens. If you just try to be a "trusted servant", you'll be OK.

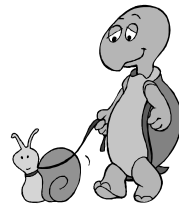
The fact is – you **MAY** be called the AA Police. Just do your job & don't take it personally.



153

**I hear it's just all about POLITICS ...**

**IS THAT TRUE?**



154

**I don't understand why people think it has anything to do with politics. Either they haven't been to enough business meetings – or they've been to too many political rallies.**

**It reminds me of Herbert Spencer's statement – that there's nothing that will keep us more in everlasting ignorance than "contempt prior to investigation".**



155

**I noticed on this Area phone list – that there's something called a "GSO Service Position Number".**

**What is that?**



156

Just like each group is assigned a Group Number by GSO – each person who takes a service position at the District or State level – is also given one of those same type of numbers. That enables you to get a DCM packet or the Service Committee packet that goes with your position.

This **Service Position Number** is also the number you would use if you are ordering literature for your District or Committee.



Sometimes GSO's service positions differ from ours in Area 57. If we have a service position that GSO doesn't recognize – then no Service Position Number is necessary.

157



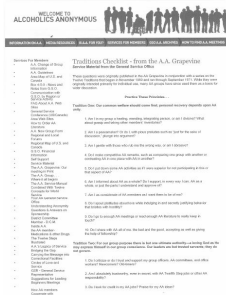
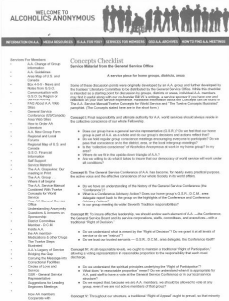
**Okay! One last question ...**

**I heard someone talking at an Area Meeting about a "Traditions Checklist" and a "Concepts Checklist".**

**I've never heard of them.... Where do you get those? Where do they come from?**

158

They are service pieces from GSO. You can get them on AA's web page



Or – usually at Intergroup in OKC or Central Office in Tulsa.



**NO.... Wait ... I have ONE MORE**

**Why do I, as GSR, need to come to Area Committee Meetings? I don't even get to vote there except in September at the Area Assembly.**



160

I think after you've been a few times, you'll see why ...

First of all, you'll hear about all of the efforts throughout the State to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Then, there's LOTS of flyers available to be picked up and taken back to your group.

Also, you will meet **so many** other people doing service work -- who have the experience you or your group may be looking for.

**PLUS ...** How else can you tell your group what's going on – if you're not there to find out?



161

**Keep Coming Back ...**

Dudley Doo-Right of the Royal Canadian Mounties says....



***DON'T DRINK!***

Eh?

162

To YOU who are eligible for any service offices, I hope you will give serious thought to what AA has given to you – How much you OWE A.A. – the importance of our General Service Structure – How We Function – and how VITAL your SERVICE WORK is to OUR FUTURE.

I hope you will be willing to continue serving AA and allow **God**, through the process of election or group conscience -- to decide -- if, when, and where you serve as a trusted servant.

Im SURE I'LL see you somewhere down the road in the Servant's Quarters.



163



164

Hopefully today's session has been informative and stirred your interest in service work.

If you haven't ever tried service work, think about trying it.



It **MIGHT** just save your life!

165

**THAT'S ALL FOLKS....**



**Thanks** for being here  
TODAY.

Let's close with  
the Lord's Prayer.



166